The Middlebury Campus

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Middlebury students join over 20 colleges across the country for the Reproductive Freedom Protest

By MAYA HEIKKINEN
News Editor

More than 100 Middlebury students rallied on the lawn below Middlebury Chapel on May 5 at 5 p.m. for a Reproductive Freedom Protest that took place in conjunction with over 20 other colleges across the country. The goal was to "halt the overturning of Roe v. Wade and defeat anti-choice legislators" according to Reproductive Freedom Protest (RF Protest) on Instagram.

Meg Farley '24 (he/they), one of over 75 college students across the nation organizing walkouts on their respective campuses, initially reached out to RF Protest to get in touch with Middlebury students organizing a protest, since the college was already listed as involved in the movement. Upon finding out that no one from Middlebury had confirmed participation in the RF Protest, he committed to making the protest happen just 20 hours before the scheduled nationwide time.

Sending out an open invite over Instagram for anyone interested in organizing, speaking or photographing, they recruited the support of Ev Berger-Wolf '23 and Bess Gramling '23, who helped with the action and produced a Reproductive Justice Resource sheet for attendees, as well as Daleelah Saleh '23 and Nadia Hare '25 for official photography. Farley also worked closely with Dr. Karin Hanta, director of the Feminist Resource Center at Chellis House, on logistics surrounding art-making and consciousness-raising and received guidance on coalition building from Professor Sujata Moorti's Feminist Theory class.

Farley opened the protest with a Land Acknowledgement, recognition of the Chapel's roots in the eugenics movement and the intersectionality of the current fight for reproductive rights.

"The fight for reproductive freedom cannot be separated from fights against eugenics, and against white supremacy, and colonialism," Farley said. "As many of you know, this is not just about Roe v. Wade, this is not just about abortion access. This is coming at the same time that voting rights are being stripped

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PAYPAL CEO DAN SCHULMAN '80 TO GIVE 2022 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

By RILEY BOARD
Editor in Chief

Middlebury alumnus Dan Schulman '80, CEO of the financial technology company PayPal, will give the commencement address to the class of 2022 on May 29.

Schulman's address will be followed two days later by a speech from Jason Collins, the first openly gay NBA player, at the class of 2020's two-year-delayed commencement ceremony. Collins was first tapped for the 2020 ceremony before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and will finally deliver his address this year.

After graduating from Middlebury, Schulman received an MBA from New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. Before taking up leadership at PayPal in 2014, he served in a senior leadership role at American Express, was President and CEO of Priceline and worked at AT&T for 18 years.

According to his biography, Schulman is, "focused on democratizing and transforming financial services and e-commerce to improve the financial health of billions of people, families and businesses around the world." He is also involved in the World Economic Forum, and is

"an avid mixed martial arts practitioner."

In 2021, Schulman was ranked #3 on Fortune's list of the world's 50 greatest leaders. Fortune's description of Schulman commend's PayPal's pandemic economic relief efforts and hundreds of millions in grants to Black-owned businesses, nonprofits and minority-owned banks. The profile also says that Schulman's support for PayPal

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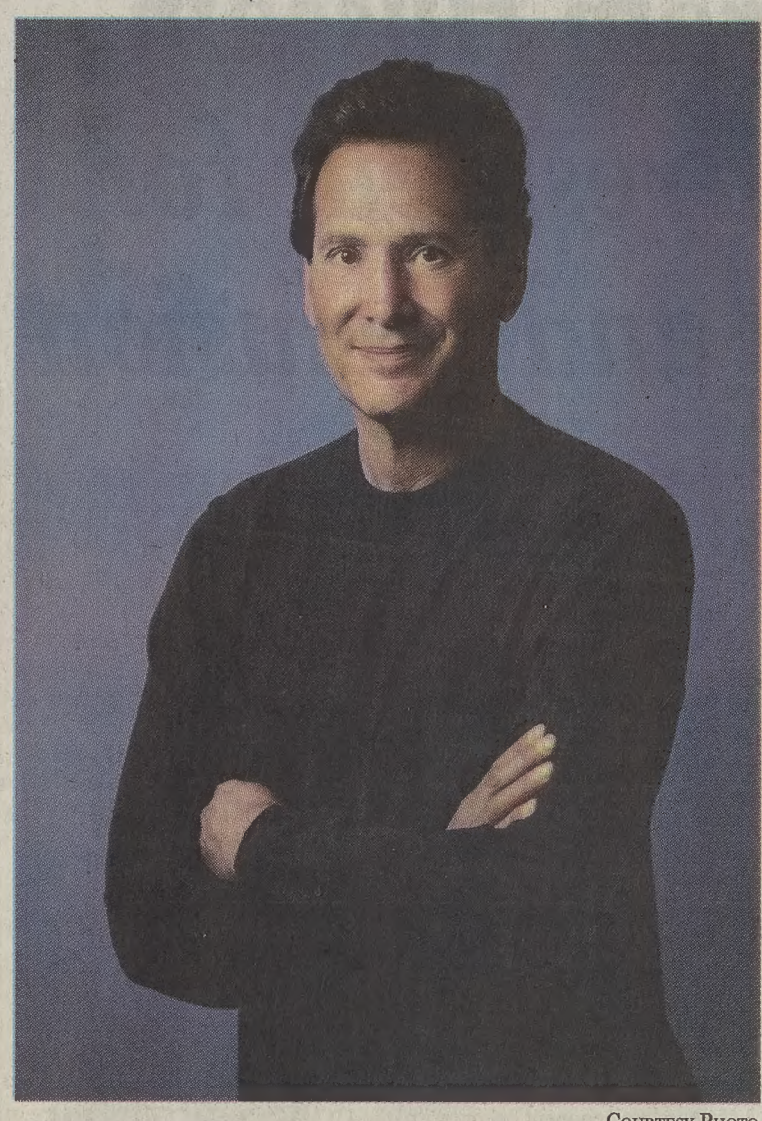

COURTESY PHOTO
Dan Schulman '80, CEO of PayPal, will give the commencement address.

COURTESY OF DALEELAH SALEH
Participants in the Reproductive Freedom Protest on May 5 gathered on the front lawn of Chellis House, the location of the Feminist Resource Center.

Students organize for extension of visiting professor's contract

By LAUREN THOMSON
Staff Writer

Student organizers are fighting for the renewal of Visiting Assistant Professor of English and American Literatures (ENAM) Stacie Cassarino's contract as she currently faces job insecurity after six years and four individual winter terms of teaching at Middlebury.

Cassarino was originally hired in 2004 to teach a variety of courses in creative writing before joining the Humanities & Media Studies Department at Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn for three years and the English Department at UCLA for four years in 2008. In 2018, she was rehired at Middlebury to teach a first-year seminar on a yearly contractual basis, and the school has continued to extend her contract by one year every year since then.

Professors can be invited to teach at Middlebury as tenure-track professors, with the option to be reviewed for a tenured position after several years, or as visiting professors whose contracts are typically renewed annually or every few years.

Last summer, when the college extended her contract, Cassarino was notified that while she could continue to teach at the college, her benefits from the institution would be discontinued. Given that her contract renewal process happens so late, Cassarino is unsure she will be offered any classes to teach at the college next year.

Cassarino currently teaches both a sophomore and first-year seminar and is the advisor to 34 students, but she is unsure whether she will continue to have a position with Middlebury next semester. As a professor living in college-provided housing, this wait does not only impact her professional career but her family as well.

Jaden Hill '22, a former student of Cassarino's, and Bella Cady '22.5, a current advisee, launched a campaign to keep Cassarino employed by the college as a visiting professor and ensure she has greater job security in the future. On March 17, they sent an email to past and current students and colleagues of Cassarino requesting testimonials to speak to ways "she has touched their lives and is essential to the

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NADYA TKACHENKO '00 HELPS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND

By CARLY McADAM
Contributing Writer

A few weeks after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Nadya Tkachenko '00 felt a pull to travel to Poland and help Ukrainian refugees at the border.

"I couldn't sit and watch the news while doing nothing," Tkachenko told The Campus. Tkachenko's father is from Ukraine and she spent her childhood summers there. She also studied in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol during high school.

Tkachenko and a few friends decided to work with World Central Kitchen on the Poland-Ukraine border in a town called Medyka. For the first few days she was there, Tkachenko cut hundreds of pounds of potatoes, carrots and onions and packaged crates of baby food.

"The work was amazing," she said. "The spirit of volunteers was so uplifting."

After working at World Central Kitchen, Tkachenko moved closer to the border. Her ability to speak both Ukrainian and Russian made her a valuable asset where refugees were entering Poland.

> "I couldn't sit and watch the news while doing nothing."

"People would just relax when they heard me greet them in their language," Tkachenko said. She was the first person who many of the refugees spoke to when they arrived in Poland, and she helped people carry heavy luggage, aided them in finding food and held their children so they could have a chance to use the bathroom after their long journey. Many of the refugees Tkachenko was working with didn't know what was next for them.

"These people had escaped were in the hands of fate and volunteers," she said. Tkachenko was there to help direct them where to go next.

Tkachenko also handed out cash stipends to refugees and worked to find them housing.

"Poland opened up their hearts and doors to refugees," Tkachenko said. However, there came a point

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College names Khuram Hussain Vice President for Equity and Inclusion

By AMANDA MANOOGIAN
Contributing Writer

After a nationwide search by a committee of faculty, staff and students, in association with the firm Storbeck Search, Middlebury has named Khuram Hussain as the next vice president for equity and inclusion.

President Laurie Patton announced the appointment in an email to the Middlebury community on Monday, April 18.

"The search committee was most impressed with the depth of Khuram's expertise on inclusion and equity issues, his ability to implement a vision with conviction and compassion, his commitment to liberal learning, and his work across many aspects and in many different offices of higher education," Patton said in the email.

Hussain will begin working at Middlebury on July 1, 2022. Currently, he lives in Geneva, New York, with his wife and three kids, where he serves as the vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion and associate professor of education at Hobart William and Smith Colleges.

In an email to The Campus, Hussain described a lifelong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. He grew up in the rural Thousand Islands region of New York state in a working class immigrant family who originate from Pakistan and India. His first job after graduating from SUNY Oswego was as a teacher in the South Bronx, which is the poorest congressional district in the United States. He describes his experience as a teacher in this area as one of simultaneous hope and heartache.

"I think those two feelings, of heartache and hope, have followed me through my work as a school teacher, college professor, community organizer and administrator. So while I've chosen to take on a formal title within diversity, equity and inclusion, the work predates the title," Hussain told The Campus.

Hussain follows the seven-year tenure of Miguel Fernández, professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies. Fernández was not involved in Hussain's selection, but is assisting him with the transition into his new position.

"He brings an interesting background in multicultural education," Fernández said. "He is very much a team builder and a collaborator. I think people will gravitate to him."

Hussain described his favorite aspect of his work as something he calls bridge building, which he is eager to continue at Middlebury.

"When we connect people in spite of historic divisions, I think it shifts so much about how we are able to participate in community and even what a community is capable of being. A critical aspect of bridge building is elevating voices, stories, and ways of knowing and being that have been marginalized, misrepresented, and erased from the center of a learning community. Centering these voices allows all of us to better understand one another and feel understood," he said.

Hussain acknowledged the challenges in building connections.

"With few exceptions, institutions of higher education were not built for everyone and actively excluded many. Yet today we actively recruit historically marginalized students and educators. So we are presented with vestiges of policies, practices and knowledge systems that have not included the cultural contributions and genius of a broad diversity of peoples. In turn, we are challenged to broaden the circle of who educates, what we learn about, how we learn it and what institutional values we uphold," Hussain said.

Hussain also emphasized the importance of all students in diversity, equity and inclusion work.

"I believe there isn't a student on this campus for whom this work is not relevant. I hope Middlebury students will join me in the conversation and share with me the work that matters to them so we can collaborate, celebrate and recognize one other," said Hussain.

Fernández also spoke about his hopes for the future of diversity, equity and inclusion at Middlebury.

"I hope that the college continues to work hard at creating an environment that is welcoming to all and where everyone feels a sense of belonging," Fernández said. "I think the work that we've done is moving us in that direction. I hope Professor Hussain will recognize the areas our work has not yet been able to target. I think Middlebury has the potential to be a leader in this area."

"I think those two feelings, of heartache and hope, have followed me through my work as a school teacher, college professor, community organizer and administrator. So while I've chosen to take on a formal title within diversity, equity and inclusion, the work predates the title."

Hussain has begun preparing for his new role.

"While I don't officially take on my new role until July, I am listening and learning and am in the process understanding the challenges at Middlebury," he said. "In the meantime, I would offer to any student reading this to feel free and welcome to reach out to me to share or simply to say hello."

STUDENTS ORGANIZE FOR EXTENSION OF VISITING PROFESSOR'S CONTRACT

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Middlebury Community."

"Losing professors such as Professor Cassarino, who are committed to centering intersectionality in curricula and classroom conversations and creating safe spaces for students of marginalized identities, brings into question Middlebury's commitment to solidarity and community on campus," Cady and Hill wrote in the email to students and faculty.

Thus far, the student organizers have received over 70 responses from students and colleagues in support of extending Cassarino's contract. The testimonials speak to a wide variety of Cassarino's strengths as a professor.

"Her ability to facilitate authentic and rich discussions, and especially to encourage listening, contemplation, and silence when necessary in those discussions, is unmatched," one testimonial reads.

In her testimonial, Casandra Dormeus '25 wrote, "Her generosity does not go unnoticed and her ability to make space for BIPOC students in her class and have an inclusive curriculum is commendable."

Many others say in their testimonials that their time spent in Cassarino's classes is why they think of themselves as writers today. They mention the quality of her mentorship both in and outside of the classroom.

Arthur Martins '22.5 is a joint major in ENAM and Gender, Sexuality and Feminisit Studies. Martins met Cassarino in his first-year seminar course, Literary Borders. He enrolled in Introduction to Creative Writing with Cassarino in Spring 2020 as well as an independent study, in which they produced a poetry booklet.

"Keeping Professor Cassarino at Middlebury is imperative if the college is truly committed to having diverse, well-accomplished faculty who care about students beyond their grades and their professional successes," Martins said.

After receiving the testimonials, Cady and Hill decided to take student voices directly to the administration and the ENAM department. On April 11, they heard from the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC), the faculty committee on campus that reviews all academic staffing requests on campus. They wrote to Hill and Cady via email that the testimonials were moving and inspirational.

"Our committee would give all due attention to a proposal from the English department or related departments on behalf of Professor Cassarino," the EAC wrote in their email.

On Tuesday, April 12 Cady and Hill met with ENAM faculty to speak on behalf of Professor Cassarino. Students read their testimonials with the hope of demonstrating the diverse and meaningful impact Cassarino has had on a large number of the student population. Following the ENAM faculty meeting, Cady and Hill met with Dean of Faculty Sujata Moorti and Provost Jeff Cason on April 15 to convey their hope to extend Cassarino's contract.

In the meeting, Moorti and Cason outlined the process of faculty hires through the EAC as well as discussed formal structures for students to participate in department conversations, such as the Student Advisory Council, according to a statement Moorti sent to The Campus. Since these meetings, Hill and Cady have received no further communication from senior ENAM faculty, the Dean of Faculty or the Provost. Professor Cassarino still has no certainty about her standing in the department moving forward.

Brett Millier, chair of the ENAM Department, explained there are certain departmental barriers that might inhibit Cassarino's employment at the college.

"The ENAM, soon to be English Department, has a large number of non-tenure track faculty, who teach almost full time on three or five year contracts," Millier said. "There is little desire in the department to add another position that is not full-time and tenure track."

"In addition, the department has a serious commitment to diversifying the faculty and the curriculum and would feel obligated to search first for a person of color to fill any position we were granted," Millier said.

Millier notes that she is still working hard to find courses for Cassarino to teach at the college next year so that she can remain at the college until there is an open tenure track position in the department that she can apply for. She reiterated that the students' strong support is helping to make that possible, even though budgets for staffing courses are currently tight.

Hill and Cady continue to seek follow up meetings with Moorti and Cason. They also set up a website where people can read the student and staff testimonials as well as all of Cassarino's current professional accomplishments and contributions to the college. They remain persistent in their efforts to secure Cassarino a position at the college moving forward.

"By making this website, we hope to amplify student voices in a way that can't be ignored by going more public, so we compiled the testimonials with the hopes to make them more widespread," Hill said.

PayPal CEO Dan Schulman '80 to give 2022 commencement address

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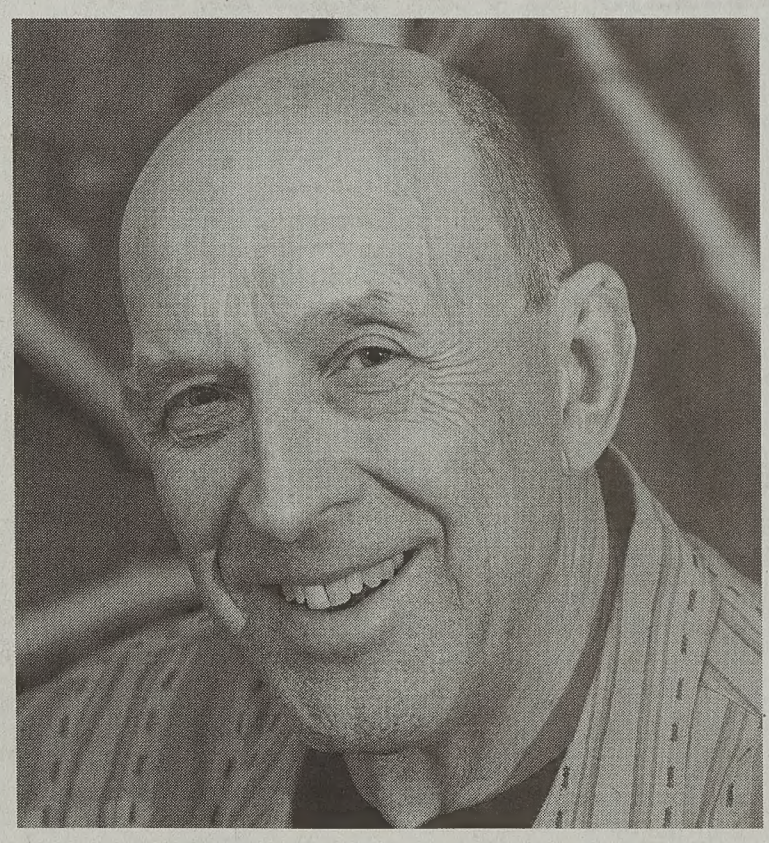
employees has been notable, calling his efforts to invest in employees "groundbreaking."

"In 2019, PayPal's leadership realized that many employees were barely getting by, even though they were being paid what the company believed were fair market rates," the Fortune profile reads. "Schulman set a new goal: Every employee should have "net disposable income" — money left over after taxes, insurance premiums, and essential living expenses — of at least 20% of total pay."

In addition to Schulman's address, the college will also confer two honorary degrees: to Nan Jenks-Jay, dean of environmental affairs emeritus at Middlebury, and Joseph Bruchac, a Nulhegan Abenaki Nation elder and author.

The commencement ceremony will occur on May 29 beginning at 10 a.m. on the college's central lawn. Tickets are not required, and the event will also be livestreamed.



Courtesy Photos

Joseph Bruchac (left) and Nan Jenks-Jay (right) will each receive honorary degrees from the College.

RISING JUNIORS FACE LIMITED AND UNCERTAIN HOUSING OPTIONS

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

With the conclusion of a stressful housing draw, many juniors are left without housing for the fall semester and await the August draw process.

In an email to juniors, ResLife said that a number of rooms are held for accommodations and emergencies and that not everyone will be able to select a space this spring. However, they also mentioned that they do not anticipate using Bread Loaf or the Marriott again, as they did this past fall.

In an email to The Campus, Associate Dean for Student Life AJ Place said that Inn on the Green "may be used if absolutely necessary, but we currently do not anticipate using it." Place also said that ResLife doesn't have the number of students awaiting housing yet and cannot say which spaces will be available, since they have to work through accommodations requests first.

Many juniors were hoping for singles in the Ross complex or Forest Hall, but instead ended up in doubles or two-room doubles. Kian Lalji '24 had a middle time slot for the junior housing draw. His top priority was getting a single, but he will now be living in a two-room double in Painter Hall for the entire year.

"A lot of my friends ended up in the August draw, which might be better, but right now it just seems very weird that they wouldn't tell us beforehand that there'd be this many people in the August draw, considering they probably could've guessed that," Lalji said.

The lack of information and uncertainty is troubling to students in the August draw, like Michael Eller '24. Eller had a time slot about two thirds of the way through the housing draw, and now has to wait to see what options will become available.

"I wish that we would know a transparent yes or not that wouldn't be wavering about whether the school was intending on using Inn on the Green," Eller said. "That would let a lot of students know if they should've made plans to double up with those last few doubles that were available or seek other arrangements in a special interest house."

Others like Ryan Heinzerling '24 avoided the housing draw altogether and opted for special interest housing. Heinzerling is going to live in Brooker, the outdoor interest house, next year. He said he was "definitely drawn by the people I know there, the quality of the housing, and trying to avoid the housing draw, if I'm being totally honest."

The stress of the housing draw was compounded by registration, which followed a day or two after for many students.

"I think that Midd definitely could have done a better job of [scheduling course registration] at least a week away instead of having one day's difference," Lalji said.

Eller expressed disappointment about the housing process this year, especially after forming a group with close friends.

"I'm glad that there's housing, but I would say it's not the most ideal housing," Eller said. "As a junior, the most ideal situation would be to live right next to my close friends who are in my housing group, but unfortunately this is not the case."

NADYA TKACHENKO '00 HELPS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN POLAND

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where there simply wasn't room for any more refugees to stay in shelters or train stations any more. Tkachenko raised funds through friends before embarking on her journey to Poland, and she used the money to pay for hotel rooms for refugees.

Tkachenko also used her funds to support her personal contacts on the ground in Ukraine. She bought rescue supplies and vans for people driving refugees to the border from Mariopul, food and tactical gear for people on the front lines and uniforms for soldiers. Tkachenko also helped coordinate delivery of supplies based on soldiers' needs.

Tkachenko explained that the emotions she felt while working were intense.

"I felt like I had to be strong for these people," she said. "I had to be strong on one hand, but on the other I think it was just humans connecting and empathizing. I tried not to hide my emotions too much."

Although she felt great sadness and grief, Tkachenko did not describe feeling any fear. "I was not really afraid to be there," she said. "Especially compared with what these people have gone through."

Tkachenko is returning to Poland and Ukraine in a few weeks with a new goal. Her mission this time is twofold: providing cash and supplies to refugees and helping them rebuild their lives. She said that many refugees are feeling desperate and stuck without homes and jobs. Tkachenko is hoping to start laying groundwork in Ukraine for construction of housing for displaced people. She is going to meet with town officials and eventually with higher-level donors that can help fund construction of new housing.

According to Tkachenko, the best way to support refugees at this time is through fundraising, donating and increasing awareness. "There are many organizations that are doing the work that is needed," she said. When the active war eventually ends, Tkachenko expects there to be opportunities for volunteers to be on the ground in Ukraine helping to rebuild the lives of displaced people.

Middlebury students join over 20 colleges across the country for the Reproductive Freedom Protest

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across the country. This is coming at the same time that trans rights are being stripped across the country."

Shouting chants, the group proceeded up the hill to Chellis House, gathering on the front lawn for five minutes of silence in honor of five decades of Roe v. Wade, impromptu speaking and art building. In honor of the "Green Wave" Mexican abortion movement, national protestors were instructed to wear green.

Farley spoke again to the many other connected ways in which "politics seem to be dictating the people more than people are dictating the politics," and the absence of adequate infrastructure for abortion access and care even in protected states like Vermont. Several students shared their personal thoughts and feelings, including Saleh, who emphasized the importance of considering the intersection of racism and classism with the history of the movement for reproductive justice.

"I just hope that when you're all thinking about this, you're also thinking about this through an intersectional lens, and thinking about not what you can do so much as what other people are already doing, and not necessarily asserting yourself, but seeing mutual aid funds you can access, and places where people of color and other marginalized identities are already doing the work and how you can support them in the way that they need and not how you feel that they might need," Saleh said at the protest.

Editor's Note: Daleelah Saleh '23 is the Senior Opinions Editor for The Campus.

COURTESY OF DALEELAH SALEH

Participants in the Reproductive Freedom Protest on May 5 started at the Chapel (top) proceeded up the hill to Chellis House (middle) and gathered on the front lawn for five minutes of silence in honor of five decades of Roe v. Wade (bottom).

Frisbee Dog statue reinstalled outside of Forest Hall facing Battell Beach

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Local Editor

A bronze statue celebrating a sport that supposedly began at Middlebury was reinstalled this past week outside of Forest Hall.

"Frisbee Dog" by Patrick Villiers Farrow was located outside of Munroe Hall from 1983, when Middlebury acquired the sculpture, until 2019. In mid-2019, the statue had to be removed from its position facing McCullough lawn to make way for construction on Munroe.

Once the statue was removed from its original location, the Committee on Art in Public Places (CAPP) had to decide where it would be relocated. According to Richard Saunders, director of the College Museum of Art and professor of History of Art & Architecture, the question became what location would connect the statue more visibly to the sport of ultimate frisbee.

Saunders and other members of the CAPP consulted with members of the Middlebury Pranksters, the college's ultimate frisbee team, who suggested either by Battell Beach or the fields by the track, where the team practices. Ultimately, "it made more sense [by Battell Beach] than out by the track or over by the other athletic facilities," Saunders told The Campus.

According to Thatcher Littlefield, the museum preparator, the process of preparing the statue to be reinstalled included reconfiguring the mount into one that can be easily reversed. Littlefield was in charge of cutting the statue out of the concrete by Munroe, working with Nops Metalworks to get a new mounting system, and ultimately putting the piece back in the ground.

The statue did not require any clean up in the time between its removal from Munroe and its reinstallment, Littlefield told The Campus. All of the bronze pieces on campus are waxed periodically, but otherwise their maintenance is limited.

"It's a pretty durable piece," he added.

Littlefield said he and the CAPP were hoping to install the statue in the fall of 2021, but Covid-related delays caused them to miss the window before the ground froze for the winter.

Donated to the college as a gift from Gary Merrill in 1989, "Frisbee Dog" commemorates the evolution of frisbee from an ancient sport into the game it is today. Five Middlebury alumni claim to have thrown the first frisbee – a discarded pie tin from Frisbie Pie Company – while changing a flat tire in the fall of 1939, according to the College Museum of Art website.

However, Yale Law School students and Princeton University students also claim to have been the first ones to throw the disc.

When the statue came to Middlebury in 1989, a committee on public art did not yet exist. CAPP was established in 1994.

"It came out of a wish to formalize and be consistent in how we dealt with public art acquisitions," said Saunders, who was involved in the founding of the CAPP.

In the winter of 1983, a sculpture named "Way Station," by Vito Acconci appeared on a pathway by the Freeman International Center with no prior announcement. This precipitated the battle over public art on campus that eventually led to the creation of the CAPP, Saunders said. Right before commencement, in the spring of 1985, a group of students poured a flammable liquid over the statue, setting it on fire, in an effort to remove it from public view. According to Saunders, it took 30 years for the museum staff to clean and recover the sculpture, but it was ultimately reinstalled by the pond outside of the Mahaney Arts Center.

These events led to a realization among the Middlebury community that the administration could not simply put art out on campus without an explanation, Saunders said. "You need to have a public discussion of things," he added.

The twenty-person committee is made up of students, staff, faculty, and advancement staff.

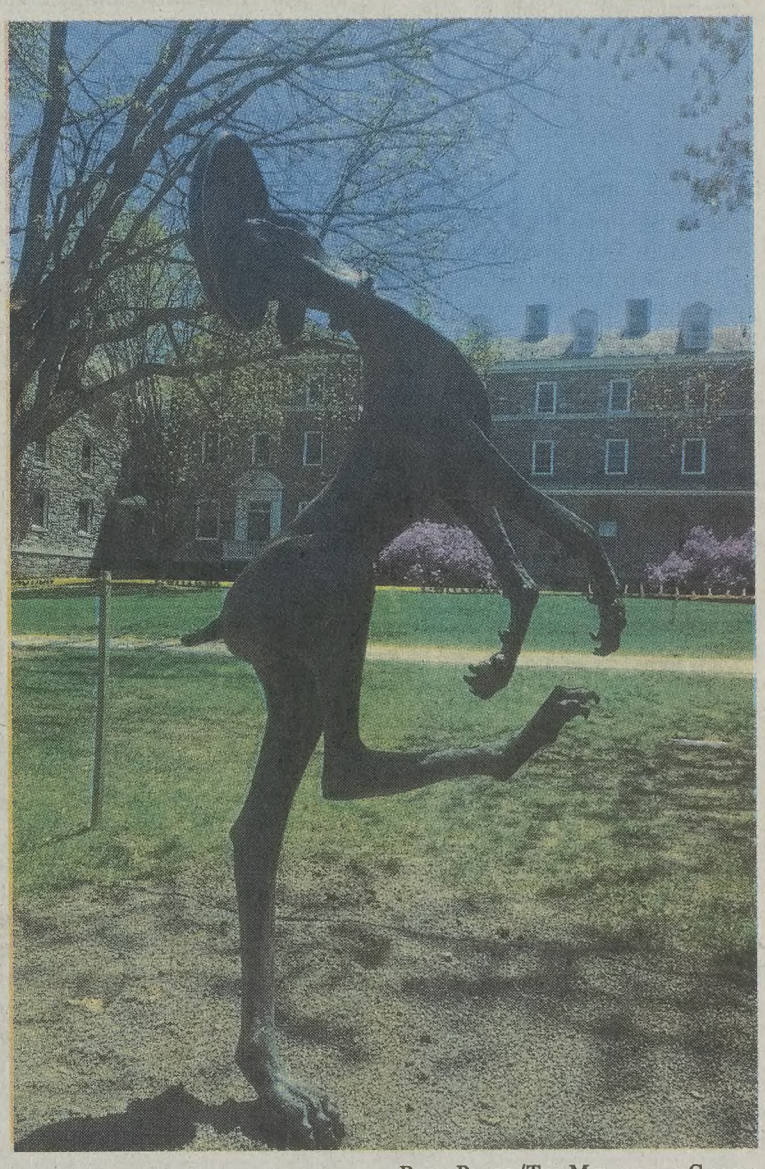
Under the 1% for art policy, each time a capital project happens, such as the renovation of Munroe, the CAPP receives 1% of the money spent on that project to purchase works of art. The committee then oversees the use of this 1% fund, which has been spent on works such as "Smog" outside of McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

A number of other public art works have been gifts, like "Frisbee Dog, "LOVE" outside of the Mahaney Arts Center, and "The Middlebury Panther" by Youngman Field and the Alumni Stadium. The committee also supervised the installment of the murals "L'Art d'Écrire (The Art of Writing) in Davis Family Library, and "Mural of Cosmic Geometry" on the wall of Wright Memorial Theater.

"It extends art beyond the museum and gives it a campus presence," Saunders said.

Both Saunders and Littlefield concurred that the statue's new location well represents the college's connection to frisbee, and a place on campus where frisbee is frequently played. "I think it fits nicely here and it relates well to the ultimate frisbee team," Littlefield said.

Courtesy of Thatcher Littlefield



Riley Board/The Middlebury Campus

Frisbee Dog at its old location outside of Munroe Hall (left) and it's new location outside of Forest Hall (right).

Environmental studies students collaborate with Newfane farm for spring practicum

ES 0401 Class Group worked with SUSU CommUNITY Farm, an Afro Indigenous stewarded farm in southern Vermont

By JULIA PEPPER
Local Editor

For their project titled "Building for Belonging," Molly Conover '22, Masud Lewis '22, Taylor Lovely '22, Jaab Veskijkul '22.5 and Galen von Wodtke '22.5 worked together with SUSU CommUNITY Farm in Newfane, Vermont this spring to support the farm as it grew as well as create a guide to permits needed to build in Vermont.

SUSU is one of just 17 Black-owned farms in the state.

"The SUSU commUNITY Farm is an Afro Indigenous stewarded farm and land based healing center in Southern Vermont that elevates Vermont's land and foodways ... We do this by co-creating a life affirming and culturally relevant platform for Black, Indigenous, People of color, youth, under resourced folx, and allies to thrive and experience safety and connection while beginning to develop the tools and agency to heal from the trauma of colonization," their website says.

Current SUSU programs include the Box of Liberation, which provides free community supported agriculture (CSA) boxes to BIPOC families in Southern Vermont for twenty weeks a year. SUSU also offers workshops such as Unbodying White Bodied Supremacy and Re-Claiming BIPOC Freedom and Joy.

The name of the farm comes from an African practice of mutual aid.

"A 'susu' is a commUNITY based loan/savings practice. The practice, as SUSU community farm knows it, derives from West Africa although several cultures have different variations under different names. The word 'susu' comes from 'esusu,' a Yoruba word," according to the website. The farm chose this as their name to represent the idea that everyone brings something to a community, and everyone can receive something, too, the students explained.

SUSU's work is grounded in spiritual practices and ancestral guidance. Their programs and internal organization are influenced by the Dagara medicine wheel. The Dagara tribe in West Africa uses this medicine wheel as their foundation of cosmology, and this wheel guides both the programming and internal organizational structure of the farm.

The organization has structured its departments into seven circles according to this wheel. For example, the fundraising and finance departments are part of the fire circle and are overseen by the Fire Keeper, who sits on the Board and acts as a treasurer.

The five Middlebury students who worked with SUSU were matched together after ranking their choices in their Environmental Studies (ES) 0401 class. Diane Munroe, the assistant director of community based learning in the ES program, is responsible for matching students with external organizations.

One goal of the project was to create a map of possible future connections between Middlebury and SUSU. This entailed the students talking to many directors at the college, explaining their relationship with SUSU, and asking if each office would be interested in also working with the farm when helpful, whether that is months or years down the line. Talks with the Anderson Freeman Center, the Franklin Environmental Center and the Scott Center for Religious life, for example, were part of this initiative.

"We really see the value in SUSU and what that can bring to Middlebury," Lewis said. "Especially because of SUSU's strong mission, the college struggling with DEI [Diversity, equity, and inclusion] and the demographics of Vermont at large.

Lewis and Conover pushed against the idea of making demands of certain directors.

"Allyship is also about recognizing limits, so demanding that [directors] engage in a certain way isn't really sustainable. If anything, it could antagonize the relationship," Lewis said. "These directors will be engaging because they're genuinely invested, not because they have an expectation."

The group's hope is that, once relationships with directors and offices have been established, these groups will loop current students into projects with SUSU.

"The speed and expectations set by Middlebury aren't how any organization works outside of Middlebury: Deadlines are set, but things come up. It's especially not how SUSU works. Professors were understanding, but it was stressful attuning myself and moving with the speed of trust," Lovely said. "I learned that it's ok if things don't work out the day you want them to. It always works out. You just have to communicate."

Conover echoed these words and added that calibrating to SUSU's pace was a challenge worth tackling.

"It's the speed I want to work at, but not necessarily in line with the mindset here [at the college]," she said.

A second goal for the students was to create something of a guide to aid SUSU in navigating the permits of Act 250, Vermont's developmental and land use law.

Lovely and von Wodtke created a bare bones structure of information, working to make the content more digestible and linking resources as needed.

This was then passed to Veskijkul, who transformed the policy breakdown into a booklet.

"I was thinking, 'How do I make this more fun for [SUSU]?' I started adding little men, who along the way would appear in some fun graphics. I was thinking, 'How would I enjoy reading this?'" Veskijkul explained.

Throughout the process, he added, the group learned how hard navigating Act 250 can be, which made their efforts to make it easily understandable even more important. Veskijkul used his visual background as an ES Architecture joint major to make the pamphlet.

Von Wodtke said the guide should be useful to SUSU for the foreseeable future.

"I could foresee SUSU having a staff member, or hiring an attorney [to help with the permitting process]," he said. "We've done the best we can, and I think it will help. It certainly doesn't fix the hurdles, but it will maybe make the hurdles a little smaller."

Due to time constraints and distance — the farm is located two and a half hours south of the college — all interactions with SUSU were through Zoom. In the coming week, however, the students will travel down to the farm to work at clearing away land for upcoming building projects, and meet the founders and employees at SUSU.

Even over Zoom, however, students said SUSU's positive energy came through. Conover, Lovely and van Wodt all mentioned that working with Jamal Arnold — the Youth, Belonging, and Place director at SUSU — was their favorite part of the project.

"The way he speaks is so different," Lovely said. "At our very last meeting, he talked about deep trust, sincerity, moving in constant flow, no rigidity, honoring all folks, working in and with community, and always bringing it back to the land. It's so lovely to talk to someone who's in a business organization and has that mentality with the people and the land... it's lovely to see, as a student, that there are people living that way."

All of the students mentioned their gratitude for SUSU as an organization and the positivity of their experience working with the farm.

"The way they're spiritually guided and how they want to connect with the land is so amazing," Conover said. "One of the things I've learned from them is that your work, food, and family can all be connected. Life is more fulfilling if they are all connected, and you're driven by the values you hold."

Courtesy Photo

Photo at the farm which includes the two founders, Amber Arnold and Naomi Doe Moody.

Riley Board/The Middlebury Campus

Counseling Services of Addison County (CSAC) advertise their increased pay.

Counseling Services of Addison County raises pay for direct entry staff, clinicians

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Local Editor

An organization that provides mental health services provider forto Addison County raised its pay rate for employees on April 4.

In an effort to make wages more competitive with other jobs in the community, Counseling Services of Addison County (CSAC) increased its wages to $17 per hour for direct entry staff, and between $51,000 and $59,000 for clinicians annually.

According to Rachel Lee Cummings, executive director of CSAC, this change comes at a time when the organization has been struggling to attract and retain staff. "We've really fallen behind on our ability to pay staff," Cummings told The Campus.

CSAC is investing $1.7 million in the pay bump, with a specific focus on recruiting employees in developmental services, clinicians in mental health.

Classified as a Designated Agency by the state of Vermont, CSAC's funding is determined each year by the state legislature and the governor. While the state government decides Medicaid rates, Designated Agencies like CSAC have been chronically underfunded in recent years, Cummings said.

According to the State of Vermont website, "Designated Agencies are private, non-profit service providers that are responsible for ensuring needed services are available through program delivery, local planning, service coordination, and monitoring outcomes within their region."

CSAC works closely with law enforcement and other community organizations to provide mental health and developmental health services to Addison County.

The largest employer in Addison County, CSAC employs between 310 and 320 people when fully staffed. Staff are split roughly evenly between developmental services and mental health service providers. Since the pandemic began, though, the organization has been suffering a 10–12% vacancy in employees.

"We've really struggled throughout the pandemic," Cummings said. "It's felt like a crisis at certain points."

Part of the problem, Cummings explained, is that employees can leave developmental service positions to work at a place like Hannaford, and earn more money in a less stressful environment.

The organization is dipping into its reserves to fund the pay bump, but Cummings said she believes it will be worthwhile in the long-term to increase competitiveness. In addition, CSAC received an unprecedented 8% increase in Medicaid rates from the legislature this year, which will be helpful in financing the change.

"We're really feeling positive about the legislature giving us a pretty significant increase [in Medicaid rates] for once," Cummings added.

Since implementing the wage raise in early April, the organization has already been able to fill some of its vacant positions. This includes hiring Direct Service Professionals and a Service Coordinator in the developmental services division, a clinician in the Adult Mental Health division, staff in the Youth and Family division, and staff at the residential homes across the county.

The organization is still struggling to hire staff for the emergency response team, and they are exploring ways to entice people to work in mental health, Cummings said.

CSAC serves over 2,000 residents of Addison County each year, across a number of locations in the town of Middlebury. Located at 89 Main Street, across from Otter Creek Bakery & Deli, the main building's services include Adult Addiction Recovery, Adult Mental Health, Adult Substance Use, Community Rehabilitation and Treatment, and Psychiatric Services.

The 67 Catamount Park building provides Youth and Family services, while 109 Catamount Park is used for Developmental Services, Employment Services and Administrative Offices. The newest building, located at 17 Court Street, is known as Evergreen and the Center. This site has group classes and drop-in day support.

"[These buildings] were built because of huge and generous community support," Cummings said.

CSAC's principal services include its Adult Mental Health Services, which are comprised of community rehabilitation and treatment (for adults coping with severe psychiatric conditions); outpatient services; and eldercare for adults over age 60. Its developmental services include community associates, for residents with developmental disabilities; support for traumatic brain injury patients; and adult family care (in-home care similar to nursing home services).

It also has an Adult Stabilization Program (ASP), which aims to support Addison County residents in solving problems and developing realistic, achievable goals, along with employment services, and Youth and Family Services — therapy and community services to children and their families.

Because CSAC employs so many people in the county, Cummings emphasized that this raise in wages will have positive effects across the county. "These are dollars going right into peoples' pockets," she said.

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

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The Middlebury Campus

What an evolving sense of institutional memory means for future Midd Kids

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

In a couple of weeks, the last class who has experienced a full year of pre-pandemic Middlebury will graduate. This has left some of us wondering about the potential loss of institutional memories and traditions that flourished before the onset of social distancing and Zoom links.

But this moment also presents an opportunity. This could be a time for Middlebury students to be incredibly intentional about crafting and nurturing the community they want for themselves. Many traditions and routines that were prevalent pre-Covid existed solely because of repetition from year to year; we rarely had the space to interrogate whether or not they were actually serving or uniting the student body.

More than ever, it is clear that if you want something to happen here, you need to make it happen. From year to year, we have seen various clubs, organizations and traditions die out because no one has stepped up to carry the torch. This dissipation was exacerbated during the height of Covid-19, as many groups could not meet in person for over a year. Moving forward, we hope that students will fight deliberately for what they want to see. On a campus where students are consumed by busy schedules and constant commitments, and quick generational turnover often means the rise and fall of traditions, we cannot be passive if we want to preserve elements of campus life we care about.

We also recognize that the impetus for preserving the desires of our community does not fall solely on students; we need administrative support and infrastructure in order to cultivate this sense of unity. (We, for one, hope the McCullough lawn food trucks can make a permanent return.)

While the potential loss of social memory and history can feel daunting, it also allows us to create new cultural norms on campus. We have already editorialized multiple times on how the pandemic has led us to be more deliberate in our relationships, and we are now tasked with balancing this intentionality while still embracing the spontaneity this year has allowed for.

> More than ever, it is clear that if you want something to happen here, you need to make it happen.

We have seen that overwhelmingly, in the aftermath of Covid-19, students have abandoned what they "think" they should be focusing on in order to pursue and prioritize what they genuinely want. Last week's Zeitgeist data illustrated how various students have shifted how they interpret these pressures; one respondent noted that they were "focusing less on academics to be happier." Another said, "I value traditional metrics of success a lot less now, and have grown to prioritize my happiness and connections with people around me."

Many of us on the editorial board have observed a lessening of Middlebury's perfectionist culture, with more students feeling comfortable asking for extensions, and putting less emphasis on schoolwork altogether. In addition, there appears to be an intensified sense of community support, as many have noted a sense of heightened camaraderie at Nocturne and various student-run events. We've hypothesized that this is likely due to the lack of many events in the last few years, which has led our community to not take these opportunities for granted.

At the end of the day, we hope that upperclassmen take the steps to deliberately pass down the aspects of their college life they care about the most, and we hope that younger students do the same throughout their years here. Our stunted campus life during peak pandemic times has highlighted the need for all of us to intentionally create the social fabric that fulfills and rewards us. We can fight for the traditions and memories we want to keep — and create new ones along the way.

A Letter to the Administration:

We are still the skinniest college in America

Op-Ed

Emma Pagni is a member of the class of 2023.5.

Thirteen years ago, the words of Dana Walters '12 rattled the community of Middlebury College and sparked a conversation that was long overdue. She claimed that our "active" culture has manifested an unhealthy, toxic environment in which students are vulnerable to disordered eating and exercise habits. Walters' wake-up call to the college made headlines, even appearing in The New York Times. However, this negative attention was not enough to incentivize the administration to bring mental health resources to the college, let alone reflect upon its systems that could be amended to catalyze prevention.

Fast forward 10 years, Quinn Boyle '21.5 reintroduced the conversation with a striking headline in The Campus: "The Skinniest College" in America. Her words were felt and shared among the general population.

"In college, I saw an opportunity to escape from my past...Instead, Middlebury's culture of "wellness," — a new way of disguising a societal preference for a specific body type — proved to be a further catalyst for my disordered eating habits. My disease festered in an environment that values athleticism, healthy eating and perfectionism. And my restrictive habits were reinforced by other girls crippled by the same disease," Boyle wrote.

Most importantly, Boyle outlined the dire need for on-campus resources. Parton Health Center lacks counselors with backgrounds in eating disorder specialization. Meanwhile, the closest specialists are in Rutland and Burlington. Leaving campus for help is not an option for everyone and should not have to be the first resort. In Boyle's experience, taking time off to receive help denied a secure return and jeopardized her financial aid package. She urged her fellow classmates to pressure the administration for change.

The conversation sparked solidarity and acknowledgement around the pervasive unhealthy culture among the student body. Conversely, the administration has continued to sit comfortably in the denial stage — denying safety and security to its student body and undermining its preached values of health and wellness.

Two years later, we remain gridlocked in a resource desert. Covid-19 has only exacerbated disordered eating and exercise habits. I experienced this firsthand, disproportionately shifting my attention to my diet and exercise regimen in the fall of 2020 as isolation and lack of normalcy deviated my normal routine and self-esteem. My struggle was only perpetuated by the similar behaviors of my friends and teammates. I took last spring off to reset my mental health amid the inescapable pandemic. I came back this fall eager to amend Midd's toxic wellness culture.

I am the Co-Director of SGA Health & Wellness, and my committee and I have struggled to move forward with a concrete plan and approval process in regards to attaining an eating disorder specialized educator and counselor. We are gaining momentum in facilitating preventative measures, in collaboration with the newly founded club Midd S.P.E.A.K. (Students Promoting Eating Disorder Awareness and Knowledge). However, we hope to bring tangible resources for the acknowledgement and recovery stages of disordered eating. All of the other NESCAC schools, except for Trinity College, provide services from a licensed nutritionist and/or dietician. The Health & Wellness Committee, and countless others who have struggled, wonder why Middlebury has not followed suit.

Perhaps, this excuse is standing in the way: students can access a virtual nutritionist through Telehealth. Yet, this resource lacks consistency, familiarity, and publicity. This limited resource has stood in the way of the college seeking effective initiatives to combat this issue. Meanwhile, the situation is just escalating. In April 2022, seventy-one percent of Zeitgeist respondents claimed they have struggled with their relationships with food or exercise during their time at Middlebury.

So, with a week left in the semester, I'd like to shift our attention back to the issue. The college Director of Health & Wellness, Madeline Hope, has proposed the hiring of a nutritionist at Parton to the administration. We need student allyship to accelerate this demand on the administration's list of priorities, as well as vocalize the demand for more than just a nutritionist on the premises. Our students undoubtedly need certified specialists to confide in and to help students rekindle healthy relationships with their bodies, food and exercise.

Therefore, we are here today to ask for your support and vulnerability. We ask you to not only share this article with peers and neighbors, but to anonymously reflect upon your experiences or struggles with this issue through this form. Additionally, please take two minutes to complete the following survey created by the Midd S.P.E.A.K. board to attain feedback about campus resources: go/middspeakup/. We believe abundant testimony can overshadow the enduring negligence and stagnation from the administration.

Unpacking the $25 Million Grant: Failed Transparency

Op-Ed

Rosella Graham is a member of the class of 2025.

On March 16, Middlebury College President Laurie Patton notified students via email of a $25 million grant the college had received from an anonymous donor. The grant is aimed at implementing conflict transformation initiatives on campus, the college explained.

The previous sentence may have already caught your attention, as the large monetary donation seemed to surprise the predominantly uninformed public. Students were addressed through a single email from the administration that could have been easily scrolled over, ignored or forgotten.

As if the bold subject line accentuating the price was not enough to draw readers in, the statement that followed was equally obscure, as it defined the grant's goal as "achieving conflict transformation. I assume this aim is as foreign to the majority of the public as it was to me, as I had never heard of conflict transformation before the announcement.

"The email about the grant really came as a surprise for me ... I just wasn't sure what to expect with where the money will go," said Lily McGovern '25.

I researched the grant's mission further through "The Little Book of Conflict Transformation" by John Paul Lederach, an American Professor of International Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame. The book defines the approach to conflict transformation as "recognizing conflict as a normal and continuous dynamic" and emphasizes the importance placed on human relationships.

The grant's emphasis on transformation places a focus on addressing systemically divisive issues and determining ways to alleviate conflict between groups or people. As opposed to the more commonly-known objective of conflict resolution, transforming conflict accounts for any historically inefficient communication methods between different groups. Looking at the root cultural causes of conflicts to "promote constructive change" not only eliminates the effects of previous disputes but creates a solid foundation for future conversations. Conflict transformation calls for the necessity of providing resources to adequately handle conflicts while promoting diversity of opinion.

"I feel like I have not heard any more updates since [the email.] Considering what a big amount of money it is and the amount of help students actually need for various things on this campus I feel like [Patton] should have been more proactive about it and let us know where [the money] is going," said Jahnavi Choraria '25.

Various students, faculty and staff members have been working in private with the grant; however, there is little transparency as to the inner workings of their plans, how they will be executed, or how noticeable the results will be from the additional funding. Middlebury has ambitious objectives of teaching up to 500 undergraduate students "common approaches to managing conflict" through a training program. Beyond this brief description, there is little additional information as to what exactly these trips entail or what curriculum will be taught. While the grant has the potential to bring about substantial social change, the ambiguous nature of the donation has led to some confusion, ultimately undermining the efficacy of the grant.

"Using the grant towards mental health [would] help because that is the one thing we lack the most. There are not...sufficient resources to help us go through anything, better counselors, any way for people to better express themselves," Choraria said.

Serving as the largest pragmatic grant that the college has received thus far, some of the money has already been distributed to various informative experiences this summer. The Center for Careers and Internships has received partial funding from the grant to support educational opportunities such as the Conflict Transformation Student Trek to Washington D.C. From covering flights to housing to transportation costs in association with this event, the grant is already showing promising results, and it will be intriguing to see where else the financial compensation will be most impactful.

The email notification came as such a shock to many unsuspecting students, and awareness of how the grant may be used remains fairly limited. Due to the obscurity of the grant's origins or the true goal of the grant on campus, it is unclear whether the Middlebury public will feel the effects of the financial support. With little follow up as to where the grant has been implemented thus far, and few efforts in including the student public in the decision making process, transparency is the largest problem with the grant. This incredibly generous sum of money has the capacity to truly impact the Middlebury community, yet without fostering more conversations between students and faculty, I fear that the grant may not benefit those who need it the most.

272 PAGES

An editor's goodbye to the print paper that she loves

Notes from the Desk

Riley Board '22 was this year's Editor in Chief of the Middlebury Campus.

I've always been sentimental about paper. I keep every ticket stub and playbill and program and letter I get. I wrote about my attachment to print when I oversaw the production of our magazine, A Year In, last spring, and I thought about it a lot in The Campus' more than a year and a half with no print newspaper.

We returned to printing last September. I sat down to do the math recently and figured out that during my tenure as the Editor in Chief, I've overseen 272 pages across 23 print issues of the paper, including this one you're holding right now (sorry online readers). That's not including the 120 pages of our magazine, or the hundreds of pages of papers I've worked on since I started on The Campus as a first year.

Those first 12 pages, after a year and a half of not printing, were a challenge. I finalized them in the FIC, hunched over from severe, mysterious abdominal pain. Even after invoking a one-hour emergency extension for our deadline to get the paper to the printer, I still turned it in 15 minutes late.

It got easier from there. The next 48 pages included stories of our over-enrolled campus, life at Bread Loaf and the renaming of the Chapel. Pages 73 and 77 contained our years-in-the-making reporting on claims of labor abuses and stolen wages as the college-partnered Goodrich Family Farm (written by my frequent collaborator Jake Gaughan). The next hundreds of pages contain the work of hundreds of writers, editors, photographers and artists, and quotes from thousands in our community.

As the year went on, we experienced easy weeks and hard weeks, special issues and not so special ones. Pages 157 through 168 contained a culmination of our ongoing efforts to highlight staff voices and issues in our coverage, especially in a time of such severe understaffing and low wages. A week later, we were only able to put out eight pages when half of the people on our staff had Covid, as did half of the writers; we still eked out an issue with four news pieces and some really big photos. Pages 249 through 252 contained the results of our Zeitgeist student body survey, led masterfully by one of our incoming managing editors, Tony Sjodin.

Twenty-three of the 272 pages include editorials, based on discussions by our Board thoughtfully overseen and compiled by our Editorial Board Director Lily Laesch each week. Twenty-two pages include colorful photo essays, a new and inventive edition to our paper this year, courtesy of our Multimedia team. And the last 12 pages, well, that's this issue. As I handed off the heavy editing load to my successor, Abbie Chang, I got to write a couple of articles myself — something rare in my time at the helm of the paper — including my first ever sports article (You can find it on page 11 of the paper this week. Let me know if I did alright.)

And that's 272. As I thumb through the pages, getting ink all over my fingers in the process, it dawns on me that these 272 pages of thin, easily rippable paper are the thing I'm proudest of from my time at Middlebury.

I owe my biggest thanks for what we accomplished this year to every member of our staff, from writers to editors and everyone in between, and most of all to my managing editors: Lucy Townend, who is graduating and heading off to do great things, and Abbie Chang, who will serve as this paper's next editor in chief and will undoubtedly do an incredible job. For every hour we've spent in a meeting or working together, we've spent even more hours together voluntarily (which is wild considering just how many hours we've spent in meetings and working together).

The funniest thing is that, at least for the time being, these actually might be my last pages. As I leave Middlebury for a job as a radio reporter, I get to abandon making meticulous small changes to Adobe InDesign files in the early hours of the morning and stressing about either fitting the whole paper into 12 pages, or filling those 12 pages up. But the nice thing about paper is that it sticks around — on the counters of our office, in the college's Special Collections library and, surely, on the shelves of all of my future homes.

Sabrina Templeton & Pia Contreras

Involuntary unpaid labor is unfair labor

Op-Ed

Mia Pangasnan is a member of the class of 2023 and a Twilight Project Student Fellow.

The idea that anti-racism isn't always protesting and policy change, but can instead be restorative community building is not a "hot take." Celebrating the achievements and cultures of BIPOC students is an act of resistance against Middlebury's white, racist, and colonialist history (and present). Despite the critical labor that student organizations do in this area, every single board member of every single student-led cultural organization on this campus would tell you that it's hard work, as well as unpaid labor.

As part of the Twilight Project's "Archives of Anti-Racist Activism" Project, which studies the history of student anti-racist initiatives and manifestations of systemic racism at Middlebury, I looked at The Middlebury Campus archives. I found that student advocacy for compensation of cultural orgs has not only been a demand for decades, it has also been one that our administration has seemingly ignored. The existence of communities and support systems for BIPOC students at a predominantly white institution (PWI), like Middlebury, is an anti-racist survival tactic. How much of a "choice" did we have if this was a decision made out of necessity? No matter how fun, vibrant and uplifting our orgs may be, work is still work.

In 1983, the Twilight Committee published a report that touched on racial diversity within the student body. According to The Campus, in the report's "Minority Student Life" section, the committee highlighted the Black Student Union (BSU), for their role in organizing events and activities for Black students and the broader BIPOC community. The report commented that the "vitality of the BSU depends on its leadership. Recently, [BSU] has been an active group." The administrative report's placement of responsibility onto BSU leadership to be a key cultivator of social life for the BIPOC community at Middlebury was then heavily criticized by The Campus' Editorial Board, which stated, "It is not the BSU, nor any of the individual students, who must take the initiative. It is the College itself."

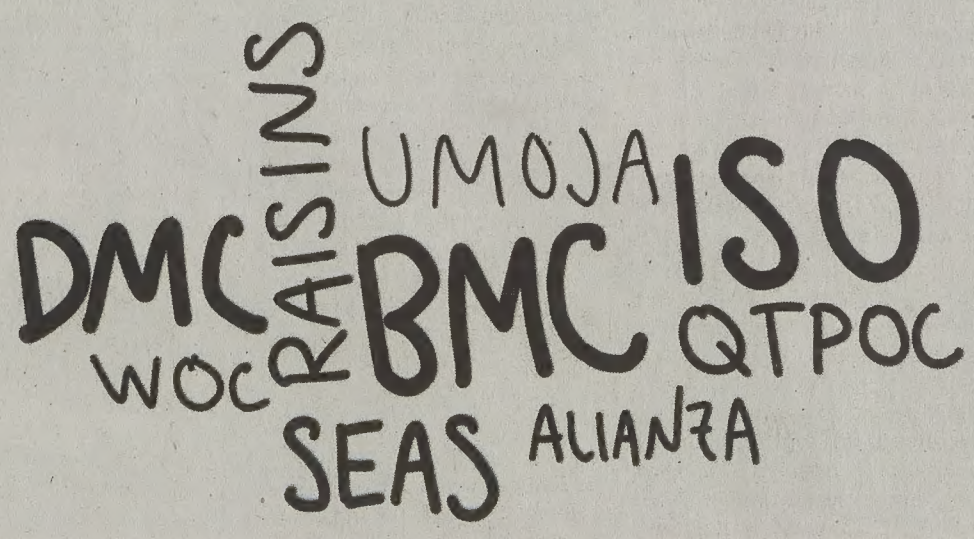
In that same Campus issue, Dorothea Gay '84, the BSU president at the time, stated, "We're forced to create and maintain our own community. But we're students just like everyone else. We have no time. You can't expect students to do that."

This sentiment was mirrored almost ten years later in a student letter published as an op-ed to then-President of the College John McCardell Jr. and the respective administrative deans. The letter called for administrative changes in order to support students of color socially and academically, as well as pointed to the lack of financial compensation for students tasked with maintaining communities of color. The author wrote in reference to cultural orgs, "These are all student-initiated and student-led groups that have served to retain some students of color at our college. The students are, in fact, retaining themselves without adequate financial or personal support from the college, this is not their responsibility. They came here to get an excellent education like anyone else, not to become overwhelmed by a complex burden of survival, educating the community about their cultures, and academic work."

The communities that we have fostered, in spite of this hostile and racist environment, are places of joy and pride. They exist thanks to a tremendous amount of work from the students in charge of leadership. Some reading this may have thoughts along the lines of, "Well ALL student orgs are work. What makes the cultural orgs any different?" To that, I would say that not all orgs are formed out of necessity in response to oppression and exclusion. Cultural orgs are maintaining communities that have been historically and contemporarily underrepresented at Middlebury College. While these spaces can be relaxing and purely social, they are a survival tactic for students of color within this PWI. We have no choice but to create, lead and maintain these communities and student support systems. Their necessity limits our ability to "choose" to take up this extra work. "Choosing" to not engage in this labor reaffirms the racist culture at Middlebury that advantages the white and wealthy. The lack of financial compensation for cultural org leaders cannot be justified on the grounds that this is "voluntary" work — it is mandatory. These complaints are not new. These demands have endured since the formation of our cultural orgs. Involuntary unpaid labor is unfair labor. We deserve our paychecks.

Celebrating the achievements and cultures of BIPOC students is an act of resistance against Middlebury's white, racist, and colonialist history.

Editor's Note: This article was written as part of the Twilight Project.



Sabrina Templeton

New fiction collection from Professor Megan Mayhew Bergman recieves acclaim

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

Timely themes of problematic inheritance and climate change loom large in "How Strange a Season," a new collection of fiction stories from Visiting Assistant Professor of English & American Literatures Megan Mayhew Bergman. The book, containing seven short stories and a novella, "Indigo Run," was released this past March and has garnered positive attention from The New York Times and The New Yorker.

"How Strange a Season" is Bergman's third collection of fiction, following "Birds of a Lesser Paradise" and "Almost Famous Women." However, she had been working on some of the pieces in the collection, including "Indigo Run," for years before the common threads between the pieces emerged.

Bergman was very intentional while considering how climate factored into her pieces.

"All of my work engages with the natural world in some way," said Bergman. "Because I'm a climate change journalist, it was important to me to not be cheesy or too easy about the way climate factors into the book. I didn't want it to be a device in the story."

Instead, climate change, and its repercussions, is a constant tension throughout "How Strange a Season."

"I wanted it to already be an accepted dynamic, pressing down on the characters and places," Bergman said. "I wanted it to already exist, and already be applying pressure because I think that's actually the conditions we're living in."

Although the settings span from coast to coast, the book's stories largely take place in the South, where Bergman is from.

"That's where my imagination was formed. It's also where I forged myself and came into contact with things that didn't always agree with me, and I think that tends to make artists and writers out of some people. I think you'll feel a lot of that tension in the book," said Bergman.

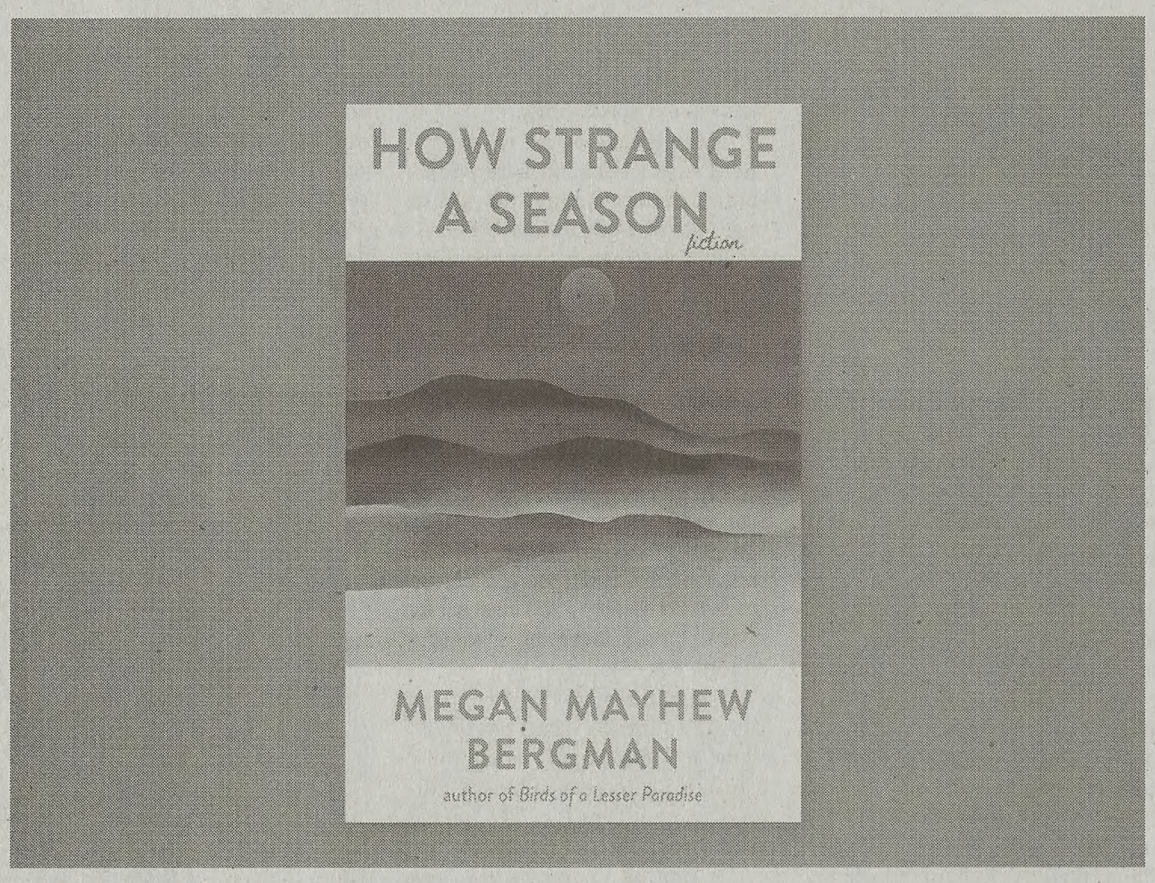
Bergman embarked on a month-long book tour through California, Massachusetts, North and South Carolina, Vermont and New York this March and April and she values having meaningful in-person interactions with readers. She also expressed gratitude to Bill McKibben, Middlebury College's Schumann Distinguished Scholar, for his support with her book launch.

"I feel fortunate that my book came out in this little window where people were actually starting to get out again, and independent stores were opening their doors to events."

The title is derived from a work by Italian poet Patricia Cavalli, who wrote, "Onto your sea my ship set sail, / Into that sea I sank and was born. / I am struck by how strange a season it is / And by how my body felt the cold."

In addition to writing, Bergman teaches Creative Writing and Environmental Literature at the College. She enjoys talking to students about being a professor-writer and demystifying the world of publishing, as well as balancing work with motherhood.

"I think it's really healthy for Middlebury to support working writers. I think it's good for students to have access to writers who are actually out there in the world doing the kinds of things they aspire to do," Bergman said. "I feel like I'm able to bring that practical aspect of launching and supporting work as a woman into the classroom and how to talk about that. I value that exchange with students."



COURTESY PHOTO

Timely themes of problematic inheritance and climate change loom large in "How Strange a Season," a new collection of fiction stories from Visiting Assistant Professor of English & American Literatures Megan Mayhew Bergan. The book, containing seven short stories and a novella, "Indigo Run," was released this past March.

Bergman is under contract to write a fourth book with Scribner, and she has another project in the works. She is writing a nonfiction book on the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, the first racially integrated all-female jazz group who traveled the Jim Crow south in the 1940s. Bergman has been working on this passion project for eleven years, and is excited for its publication.

Bergman is thrilled with the release of "How Strange a Season" and welcomes the way readers are interacting and engaging with it.

"Creating a book feels one way and sharing a book feels another," she said. "I do believe that the author eventually has to step away from the work and let it stand on its own and let readers make of it what they will."

Editor's Note: Charlie Keohane '24 is one of Megan Mayhew Bergman's advisees.

Museum of Art's Reiff Interns present year-long special projects

By ELIZA KING FREEDMAN
Arts & Culture Editor

Every year, the Robert F. Reiff Curatorial Interns work with Director of the Middlebury College Museum of Art Richard Saunders on upcoming exhibitions and study the current collection as well as special upcoming projects. This internship culminates in a final presentation of each intern's research and focus. This year's interns, Ethan Moss '23 and Niamh Carty '23 put their interests and talents on display in Mahaney Arts Center last Thursday.

Moss spoke first in a presentation entitled "Scandal, Romance and the Mundane," in which he walked audience members through "The Tale of Genji," as told on a pair of 18th-century Japanese screens that are a part of the Middlebury collection. "The Tale of Genji," authored by Murasaki Shikibur, was written in the year 1010 and is considered by many to be the world's first novel. Moss emphasized how exciting it is for Middlebury College to possess these items, and then took the audience through each scene on the screens.

Moss's attention to detail was impressive, and the specificity of his presentation showcased how in-depth and personal this internship position can be. These screens came from a time when Japan was beginning to decouple from China and assert its own unique culture. Moss demonstrated this idea by emphasizing the idea of "mono no aware," a Japanese concept of having empathy toward things, such as a flower falling off a tree, and leaning into that feeling of melancholia that can come from the inanimate.

"The Reiff Internship was a cohesive experience for my Middlebury career because I was given the opportunity to develop my knowledge of art in a practical and pragmatic setting at the museum," Moss said.

Carty took the audience to a different time and place in a presentation entitled "Post-Mortem Photography: A Practice of Remembrance." She laid out a brief history of photography to ultimately land on the phenomenon of post-mortem photography. Since photography didn't become particularly common until the early to mid 1900s, people often didn't have the chance or forethought to take photos of their family members, especially children, before they died.

Carty emphasized the significance of this artform as a time capsule of the era, since the later popularization of photography led to a decline in the necessity to take photographs of the dead. Most of the photos featured in her presentation were from Middlebury itself, adding to the feeling that her research was close to home.

"As an Art History major, I have always loved the resources of the college Museum. So when I heard that there was a way that I could be even closer to it, I definitely wanted to be involved. The Reiff Interns also help curate an exhibit, so that in and of itself was really appealing, just to get a sneak peek into how museums are curated," said Carty.

This presentation showcased Carty and Moss's hard work throughout this atypical year. The fact that presentations were in-person emphasized the resurgence of the museum after the pandemic, following the recent reopening of the museum to the public. This was the first year since 2020 that the internship was partially in-person, and it gave Moss and Carty the opportunity to connect with the museum and the arts department in a way that interns have not been able to in recent years.

Saunders only had positive things to say about the work of Carty and Moss. "This is a very organic experience. We wanted them to do something that was beneficial to the museum, of course, but we really wanted them to do something that they found exciting and interesting. It was a non-linear path, and you never really know what a student will be interested in when they arrive... so it's an opportunity," said Saunders.

In reflecting specifically on the presentations, Saunders added, "You just have to think about what you really want people to take away from what they're saying, and that was shown as [Carty] talked more informally versus [Moss's] structured talk — there is no right or wrong answer, but your personality has to shine through. Overall, it's always a lot of fun. Interns are great."

Moss and Carty's presentations exemplified the breadth of the museum's collection, and the opportunities to delve into it.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Ethan Moss '23 and Niamh Carty '23 were the Robert R. Reiff Curatorial Interns, working with the director of the Middlebury College Museum of Art Richard Saunders on upcoming exhibitions and other special projects.

Katie Concannon's award-winning sculpture translates climate grief into art

By EMILY THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

Like many young people today, Katie Concannon '22 has dealt with her share of climate grief. She has searched for relief in the imagination of different visions of the future. One such experiment was her Tidal Shift Award-winning sculpture, "What We Left Behind," based on her experiences with climate activism and the emotions surrounding it here in Vermont.

Concannon had one such experience a few months after the groundbreaking 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report was released in the spring of 2019. 350VT, a statewide branch of the national climate organization 350.org, led a 150-mile march from Middlebury to Montpelier. The walk aimed to celebrate victories within the climate justice movement, grieve the losses local communities have faced as a result of fossil fuel infrastructure and advocate for a fossil fuel infrastructure ban in Vermont.

"It felt good to be a part of something," Concannon said. Participants hiked along state roads, experiencing intrastate travel at a slower, more intentional pace that provided opportunities to connect with the landscape in new ways. Concannon became interested in the liminal spaces at the sides of highways and state roads, where she saw resilient organisms thriving amidst the litter of an apathetic society.

Flash forward almost three years to January 2022 when Concannon became inspired to explore her observations and experiences from the trek through art. For a J-Term project co-advised by Assistant Professor of American Studies Ellery Foutch and Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Daniel Suarez, Concannon created a sculpture made of found objects, both plastic and organic. Upon studying Hindu shrines in "Religion, Culture and Ecology," a class taught by Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Rebecca Kneale Gould, Concannon wanted to construct a sort of shrine to a saint of climate action.

The piece itself is made out of a crib painted with medieval-inspired designs and layered with World War II photographs, buttons, fake moss, bones, tiny corked bottles of liquid and a plethora of other colorful, random objects. The choice to make art of the crisis beautiful was intentional. Concannon leaned into postmodernist thoughts about bricolage — collaging out of diverse materials. She actively chose to give religious iconography the same value as litter and symbols of resilient wildlife. This reframing of litter pushes the viewer to reconceptualize their relationship with plastics, all of which will continue to exist on this planet indefinitely.

"Things aren't just recyclable; they can be seen as precious, as having beauty," Concannon said. She firmly believes that we cannot abandon the things we've made, regardless of their impacts on our environment. We are stuck with the litter of the past, but it can be repurposed to give birth to new art and thus, new worlds.

"If we want the planet to be livable, we have to drastically change so many structures of society that will require entirely new ways of thinking," Concannon said. "[The role of the artist] is to draw [the change in the zeitgeist] out of the cultural subconscious, making it articulated and visible in a way that people can then build off of."

When asked about actually pulling the project together, Concannon explained that her creative process was not linear at all. After starting with the idea of constructing a modern reliquary to a saint of climate justice, modeled after the process of encrusting the remains of Catholic saints with jewels in the Middle Ages, Concannon pivoted toward the shrine model, first undertaking a phase of "panic-building" before seeking advice from her mentor.

Concannon gained valuable insight from Professor Foutch. "If your inspiration is like a lamp in your head, then it's like a light shining onto all of the work that you're doing. It's not a one-way street of 'I'm going to do this, and I'm going to build this.' It was just ideas synthesized into what the sculpture finally became," Concannon said of their conversation.

While Concannon had the idea to include a massive tear in the sculptural tapestry of the objects chosen to represent modernity, she ultimately submitted to Foutch's idea of the lamp, which allowed her work to unfold over time. This artistic endeavor culminated in the award-winning piece that will soon be on display in the Hillcrest Environmental Center.

For the artist, this project was not just a means of expressing the thoughts and feelings surrounding the climate crisis that had been developing during her time at Middlebury. Like the climate walk, it helped Concannon process her climate grief and move into a more hopeful space, grounded in visionary action. After graduation, Concannon will continue her work in design and art as a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin.

Courtesy of Katie Concannon

Katie Concannon '22 created her award-winning sculpture, called "What We Left Behind" (shown above), as a way to process her climate grief.

WRMC Radio Roundup: Songs I found in my mom's closet

By WRMC EXEC BOARD & DJS

Have your Spotify playlists become stale? Is your weekly mix just not cutting it? Maybe it's time to branch out and listen to something new. The Executive Board of WRMC, Middlebury College's radio station, has selected a wonderfully wide range of albums, spanning time and genre, for your listening pleasure. Check back each week for a new set of recommendations.

*RIYL (recommended if you like)

Concert Manager's Pick — Lily Kanady '23.5

Show: Bathtime with Champ — Mondays at 10 p.m.,
That Sucked, My Turn — Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Album: "Swimming" — The French Kicks
Genre: That feeling just after it stops raining in the middle of the day
RIYL: The Walkmen, Voxtrot, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Department of Eagles
Blurb: I actually found this band because I stole a couple of my mom's t-shirts before coming to school this past fall. While I was rummaging through her closet like a little veracious gremlin, I ran across a small cutoff, crop top number and thought to myself, "oh, hell yeah." So, naturally, it's mine now. It was a French Kicks tee, and I didn't want to self-perpetuate posing, so I gave them a listen and ate them right up. Specifically the album "Swimming." Give them a listen if you're into the RIYL bands, they're pretty rockin.

DJ Pick — Liv Cohen '23.5

Show: Electric Ben — Tuesdays at 11 a.m.
Album: "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" — Kanye West
Genre: Hip-Hop, Rap
RIYL: Kid Cudi, Nicki Minaj, Pusha T, Childish Gambino, Fiona Apple
Blurb: Kanye is controversial but this album is not; the magnum opus of 21st century concept albums, dare I say. "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" features an absolutely insane lineup of collaborators that Kanye personally flew out to record with him while he was in self-imposed exile in Hawaii (post-Taylor Swift VMA debacle). This album is Kanye at his finest: in all of his maximalist glory, weaving a tragic story on the highs and lows of fame. When President Barack Obama calls you a "jacka**" you either flee or prove yourself... Kanye did both. P.S Nicki Minaj deserves a whole lot of credit for carrying on "Monster," though you can do yourself a favor and skip JAY-Z's verse.

DJ Pick — Charlie Keohane '24

Show: Witching Hour — Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Album: "folklore" — Taylor Swift
Genre: Indie Folk, Alternative
RIYL: Phoebe Bridgers, The National, Lorde
Blurb: Perhaps one of the best things to come out of isolation was "folklore," an exciting creative departure for Taylor Swift. "folklore" is more stripped down than her previous albums. Still, it doesn't skimp on rich imagery and complex storytelling. This remains one of my favorite Swift albums, and her soft vocals and thoughtful lyrics could win her new fans.

Concert Manager's Pick — Jose Morales '22

Show: Soft Sounds from the Clouds — Thursdays at 10 p.m.
Album: "Un Verano Sin Ti" — Bad Bunny
Genre: Latin Pop
RIYL: Rosalia, Ozuna, Rauw Alejandro
Blurb: Bendito needs no introduction. He's been the hottest Latin Pop star since he dropped "YHLQMDLG" in 2020. "Un Verano Sin Ti" brings different Latin genres together to create a sound for Bad Bunny that's exciting and refreshing but also familiar. My personal highlights include "Después de la Playa," "Otro Atardecer," "Un Coco" and "Yo No Soy Celoso."

Pia Contreras

Men's rugby reflects on a successful season, looks forward to 50th year on campus

COURTESY OF GRIFFIN SHAPIRO

Men's rugby recently wrapped up their spring campaign, marking the end of their 49th year on campus.

By BEN WAGNER
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College Men's Rugby Club (MCRC) went 11–3 this spring, falling to Bryant University in the Beast of the East tournament on April 24 while still qualifying for the national tournament. The team competes in the National Collegiate Rugby Small College's New England Rugby Football Union (NERFU)'s South Conference.

"[Nationals] is during graduation weekend and the travel to Houston around that just wasn't going to be possible," MCMR President Griffin Shapiro '22 told The Campus.

While the team will graduate a large senior class this May, it has a strong group of underclassmen who can spark a rebound next fall.

"The team does a great job of welcoming players to the game since almost all of us learned to play for the first time in college," Shapiro said. "We work hard to convert all kinds of athleticism into contributions on the rugby field."

Shapiro ran cross country and track and wrestled in high school before picking up rugby as a first-year at Middlebury. Cole Siefer '25, a rookie on the team, added that most players come from other sports that rely on grit, such as wrestling, football and ice hockey.

"The best thing about [rugby] is that anyone can find a position on the pitch," Co-Head Coach Kerry Wiebe said. "Our biggest challenge is creating an environment where all players will develop. We've got to be creative to develop new players and maintain the interest of experienced players while combining them to create a competitive on-field product."

While the team had an exemplary spring season, Shapiro's proudest moment came this fall when the team beat Holy Cross to cap off an undefeated season.

"It was such a great team win, against the No. 1 ranked small college rugby program in the country, and so vindicating for our team that had been off the field for almost two years during Covid to come together like we did this fall," he said.

Next academic year, MCRC will celebrate its 50th anniversary. According to Shapiro, it offers a jumping-off point for more sustained alumni involvement that eventually helps with the club resource issues. Despite having access to a trainer, Shapiro said that in general, resources have been a major limitation to the club's growth.

"The school had an opportunity, right...before I got here, to commit to and invest in the club and make it a powerhouse among small colleges and competitive with places like the Ivies," Shapiro said. "They didn't, and the college rugby landscape has gotten so much more competitive and better-resourced while our club hasn't had that same opportunity to grow."

While rugby is a club sport at Middlebury, the team holds a formal, one-week-long pre-season with practices, recovery sessions, and team building activities. "It's a great time all around," Wiebe said.

Despite a constant stream of new faces and new rugby players, Shapiro is optimistic about the team's future.

"I think the team on paper has every chance to be in the conversation for a national championship," he said.

PFL WEEKLY

CAROLINE HARDING

PFL Weekly Ep. 11:

Men's tennis wins second-straight NESCAC title, T&F successful at regionals, baseball onto conference semis

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER & CAPTAIN RUDOLPH

For the second straight season, men's tennis is the NESCAC champion. The Panthers defeated Tufts, 5–3, on Sunday to claim their 14th-straight victory this season. In other news, track & field had a successful outing at the D III New England Championship meet, including first-place finishes from Audrey Grimes (3k steeplechase), Kate Kenny (1500m), Max Cluss (1500m), and Peter Hansen (400m hurdles). Perhaps the most electric moment of the week, though, was Zip Malley's walk-off hit to earn Middlebury's baseball team a victory over Tufts in the first game of their three-match NESCAC quarterfinal series. If these stories didn't sell you, our stat of the week covers a wild winning streak, while Marco's stat of the week highlights the excellence of the softball team.

CASSIE KEARNEY '22 RECORDS THREE WINS, TWO RECORDS AT WOMEN'S TRACK NESCAC CHAMPIONSHIP

By RILEY BOARD
Editor In Chief

In the last race of the day at the 2022 NESCAC Championship meet, a 4x800 relay, Middlebury and Tufts were just points away from each other in the standings.

Cassie Kearney '22, the anchor of the relay, got the baton in third, six seconds behind the runner from Tufts. But at the very end of the race, Kearney caught up to the Tufts runner, beating her by a second and a half to secure the NESCAC title for the women's team for the first time in 22 years.

"At that point, we knew we had won for sure, so it was such a fun finish," Kearney said.

Kearney is, according to cross country coach Nicole Wilkerson, "one of the fastest runners we've ever had at Middlebury." In addition to her title-clinching performance in the relay, Kearney ran and won two other races: the 1500 and 800-meter. In both, she also established new NESCAC Championship meet records, at 4:26.64 and 2:09.51, respectively.

"That's pretty amazing for one person to do in one meet. Our conference is historically really strong in the mid-distances. So for her to break two [records] in one meet is just a sign of how talented she is," Wilkerson said.

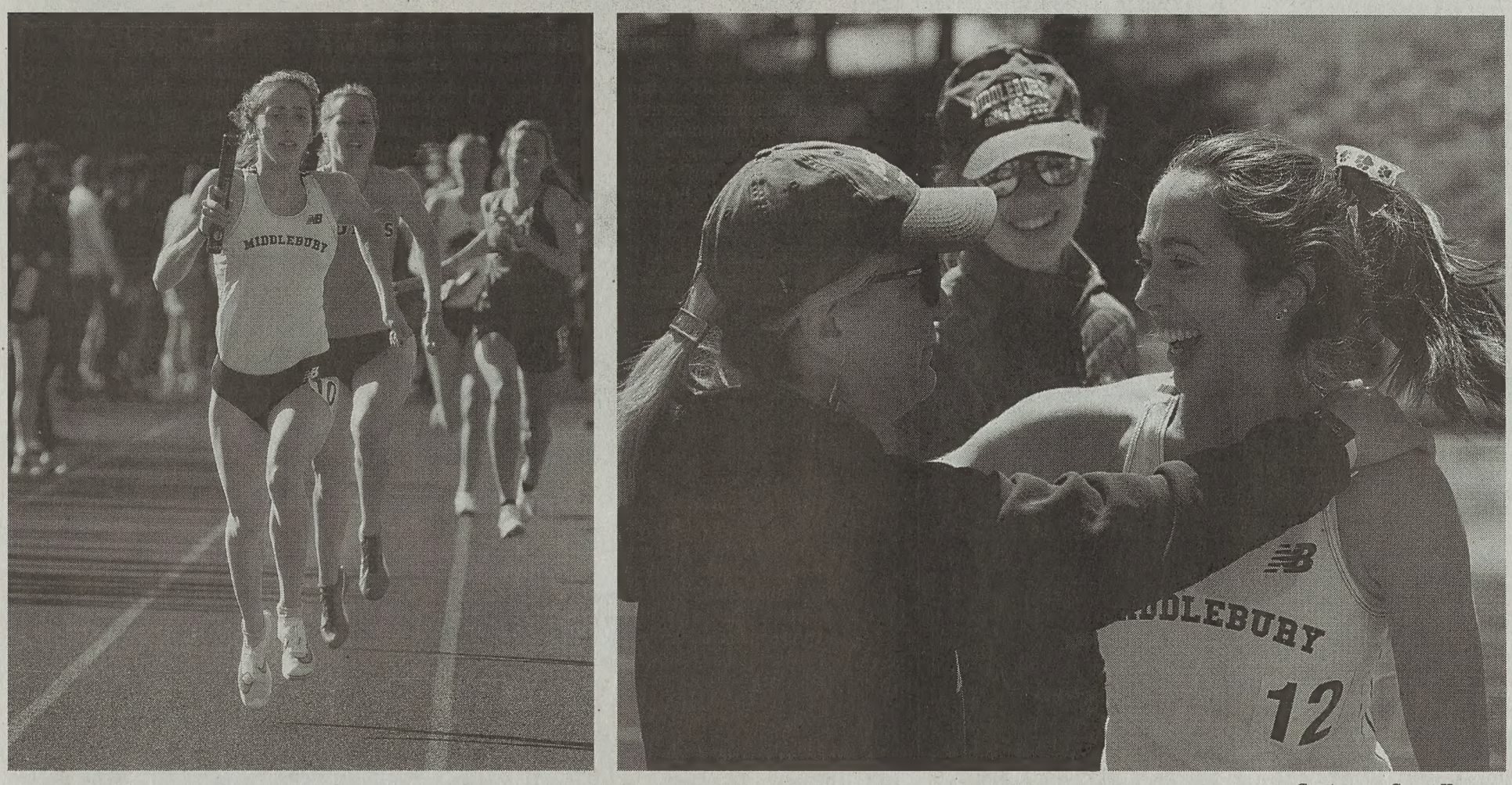
Both Kearney and Wilkerson attributed the team's success to the energy of the day, where the whole team, even those not competing, showed up to the meet to cheer on the runners.

"I can't describe the feeling of running around and seeing our whole team lining the track," Kearney said. "People performed so well because there was so much excitement and so little stress."

NESCACs weren't the end of Kearney's Middlebury running career. In the weeks since, she has competed in the Division III New England Championship, where she helped set the Middlebury record in the 4x400 relay. Next weekend, she'll compete at the Open New England Meet in Rhode Island, and then she'll compete in Nationals in Ohio at the end of the semester.

After graduation, Kearney will continue her NCAA eligibility for a year at The University of Michigan, where she'll be getting a Master of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education. Kearney said that she is excited for the new environment and intensity of competing on a Division-I team.

"I'll definitely be sad to leave here, a lot, but I'm definitely ready for new beginnings," she said.



Courtesy of Cassie Kearney

Cassie Kearney races at the NESCAC Championship meet (left) and celebrates with coach Nicole Wilkerson (right).

Baseball advances to NESCAC semifinals after intense three-game series against Tufts

By RYAN HEINZERLING
Contributing Writer

Middlebury baseball's strong season continued into the playoffs this past weekend as the Panthers beat Tufts in a best-two-out-of-three NESCAC quaterfinal series on home soil. The top-seeded Panthers knocked off the Jumbos in Sunday's decisive third game after a split doubleheader the day before.

"The guys are super excited about beating a team of Tufts' caliber," Alec Ritch '23 said. "They're an awesome squad and it was really special to take the series at home. It was a great environment this weekend at Forbes Field."

The first game of Saturday's doubleheader set the tone for a dominant performance by the Panthers. First baseman Jack Stolper '23 opened up the scoring with a two-run blast to center field in the second inning for his fifth homer of the season. The two sides traded home runs for the next four innings, with left-fielder Sammy Smith '24 answering a Tufts solo shot in the bottom of the fourth. Tufts tied it with another home run and an RBI double in the sixth inning. However, Middlebury's pitching kept the Jumbo's offense at bay to secure a 4–3 victory. George Goldstein '22 earned the win, pitching three scoreless innings to close out the game.

But the definitive moment came in the bottom of the ninth for the Panthers when Zip Malley '23 strolled up to the plate.

"It was a battle all game and [Zip] came up after an intentional walk and laced a single off their best pitcher," Ritch said. "That moment was huge because it put us in the driver seat and for Zip, it was a great moment with all the hard work he's put in. He deserved it and earned it."

After the low-scoring first game, Tufts erupted in the second contest, outsourcing the Panthers, 22–9. Middlebury fell behind quickly in a nine-run first inning for Tufts, and despite an attempt to rally from behind, the Jumbos prevailed.

After a split doubleheader on Saturday, Middlebury and Tufts faced off in a winner-take-all game on Sunday. And when the pressure was the highest, the Panthers rose to the occasion, winning 13–1.

The charge was led by strong pitching from the Panthers. In six innings, Ritch only allowed one run, including five strikeouts. George Goldstein '22 sealed the win again at the mound.

At the plate, Stolper went yard for the third time in three games to help the scoring effort. John Collins '23 also homered and had an RBI single in the sixth, while Chris Borter '23 went four for four at the plate with a double and two singles.

Next up, the Panthers face Amherst in the NESCAC semifinals on Friday. The game is slated for 6:00pm in Hartford, Conn.

"There's more baseball to be played and a championship to chase," Ritch said.

Courtesy of Will Costello

Nathan Samii 'x (#4) jumps in celebration during Middlebury's doubleheader against Tufts on May 7 at Forbes Field.

Courtesy of Middlebury Athletic Communications

From left to right: Cady Barns '22.5, Eva Kaiden '23, Michelle Louie '24, and Joely Virzi '24 pose after breaking the school record in the 4x100-meter relay on March 26. Since then, they've continued to one-up their own record.

Women's track 4x100-meter relay team breaks record after record

By JOSH ROSENSTEIN
Staff Writer

The women's track and field team has enjoyed a stellar season so far, claiming their first NESCAC title since 2000 and setting numerous school and league records. While there have been many record-setters this spring, one standout group is the 4x100-meter relay quartet of Cady Barns '22.5, Eva Kaiden '23, Michelle Louie '24 and Joely Virzi '24.

On Saturday, April 30, the four Panthers broke their own school record at the NESCAC Championships with a time of 48.53 seconds. It was the third time this group broke the 4x100 relay school record this spring.

The four ran their best race of the season at a crucial time, securing valuable points to help the team claim its third NESCAC Championship title in program history.

"The points matter and we wanted to place as high as possible," Louie told The Campus. "But it was a great bonus to break the record again."

In addition to rostering incredible athletes, the track and field team boasts an impressive coaching staff, headed by Martin Beatty '84, who claimed the NESCAC Coaching Staff of the Year award. The quartet of sprinters was full of praise for their coaches.

"Our coaching staff is a wonderful group," Louie said. "They want us to do our best, but also be the best people we can."

The team is also very tight-knit, driving their success.

"We all really care about each other," Virzi said. "We love to see our teammates at practice, which brings us all closer."

WHO, WHAT, WHERE:
Reflectons from The Campus' graduating editors

By FLORENCE WU & THE CAMPUS STAFF

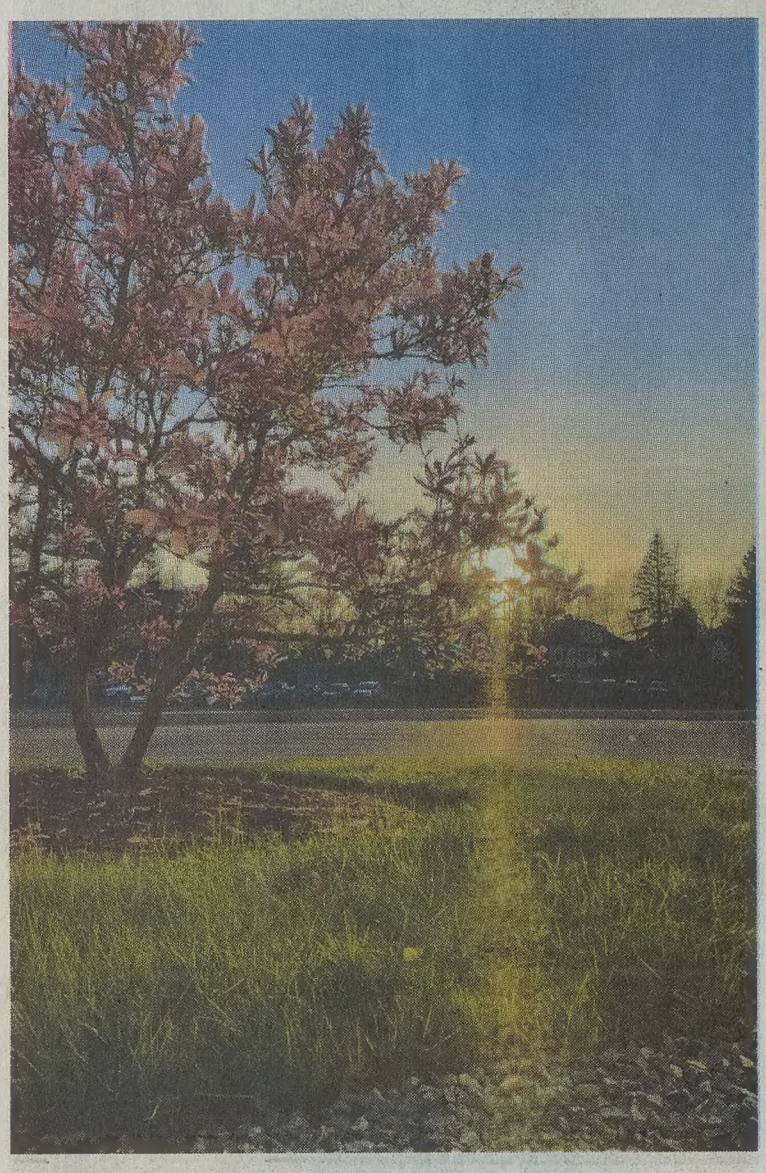
For the last issue of the year, the Multimedia desk put together a photo series of favorite moments/places at Midd from all of our graduating editors.

The photos were asked to address some of the following questions.

What are some spots on campus that they will miss the most? Who are the people that made their time here? What are the things that have became part of their everyday routine over the past four years? As some of us prepare to move on to the next phase of our lives, we hope that this can serve as a little collection of memories.

Emmanuel Tamrat, Digital Director

One of my favorite moments at Midd is watching the sun come down looking west from College St. I nearly always pause to take a photo or simply appreciate it in the moment.



Lucy Townend, Managaing Editor

The view from the window inside of The Campus office on our last night of editing. The Hepburn office — despite being located in a basement — has always felt like a place of warmth, light and comfort for me. I remember being in awe the first time that I came into the office; there are old, framed issues of The Campus lining the walls, and it still feels like an honor to work on my last issue while surrounded by relics of our legacy. We've spent over 750 hours in this office over the past two semesters, and seeing the sunset through this magnolia tree felt especially fitting for my final night spent there.

Riley Board, Editor in Chief

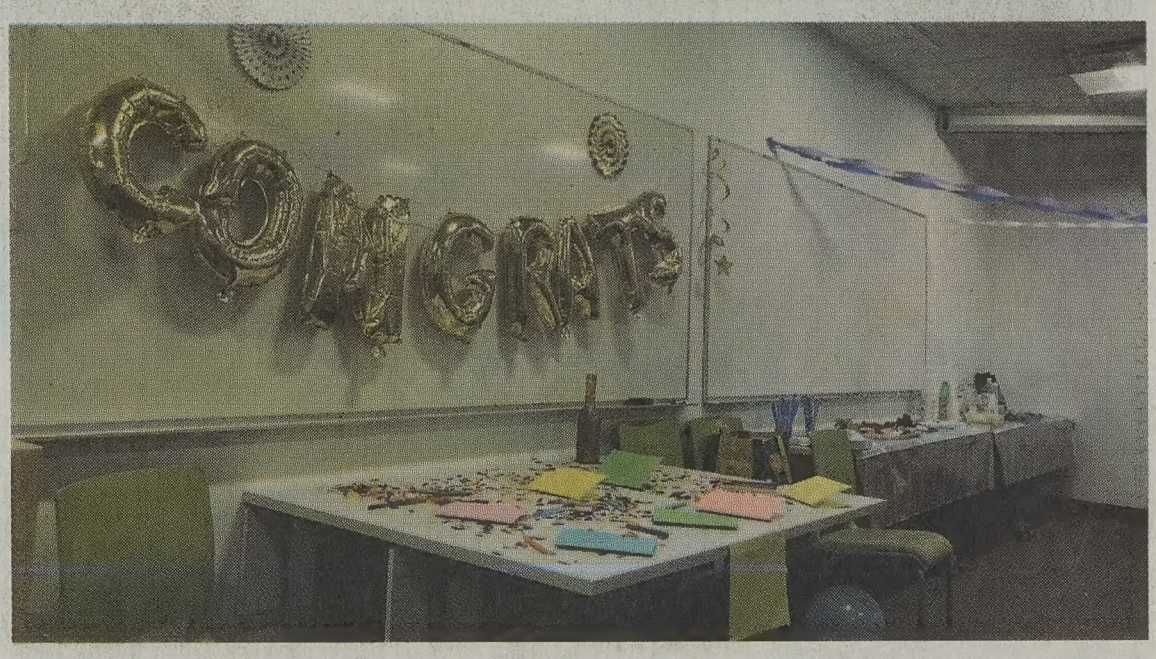
Every month, my boyfriend and I visit a different covered bridge in Vermont based on a calendar we have called "Covered Bridges of Vermont." We let the bridge be a mystery until the start of each month, and have let the calendar take us around the state to unknown locations. We have no special love for covered bridges, but the trips have brought us a special love for driving around Vermont. Here's us at the Martin Covered Bridge in Marshfield, Vt.

Owen Mason-Hill, Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Because I contracted Covid-19 during the second week of J-Term, I had to produce and film my thesis during just the last two weeks. I spent seemingly every waking moment in Axinn during that, and I was able to walk around late at night, after production had wrapped, on a campus untouched.

Florence Wu, Multimedia Director

The Teahouse is probably my favorite refuge during my time at Midd. I would go there to study, hang out with friends, or simply visit on my own for a change of scenes. Some of my best conversations were had at the Teahouse.



Sabrina Templeton, Visuals Director

As a comp sci major, when I think of my favorite place on campus I immediately think of 75 Shannon Street. But as a building that is objectively rather cold and lifeless, it doesn't usually make for a good picture. That is, until WiCS++ transformed a classroom into something more (to celebrate the graduating women in computer science)!